

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 13-21 and 26-40, 43-57 and 59-68 are now present in the application. Claims 26, 43, 44, 51, 52 and 59 have been amended. Claims 41, 42 and 58 have been cancelled. Claims 60-68 have been added. Claims 26, 43, 44, 49, 59 and 60 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 49, 50 and 53-57 are allowed. In addition, although not explicitly specified by the Examiner, it is believed that claims 13-21, 26-48, 51 and 52 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection or the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, respectively, because no rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103 has been raised against those claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

Claims 13-21 and 26-48 have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which the Examiner's helpful suggestions have been followed, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 41, 42, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 51 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claims 41, 42 and 58 have been cancelled. In addition, independent claim 59 has been amended to recite "[a] system for manipulating a sequence of digitized sound signal frames of a sound signal." Support for the above amendment can be found in FIGs. 2 and 3 and paragraphs 61, 62 and 109 of the specification. One skilled in the art in view of the specification and the drawings would enable the claimed invention as recited in claim 59. Therefore, claim 59 complies with the enablement requirement.

With regard to claims 51 and 52, in view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Accordingly, claims 51 and 52 are now definite and clear.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, are therefore respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Claims 60-68 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. System claims 60-68 correspond to method claims 26 and 13-20.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in new independent claim 60 is not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

In addition, claims 61-68 depend, either directly or indirectly, from new independent claim 60, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from new independent claim 60, which is believed to be allowable.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 60-68 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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